

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790
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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 10819

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LU JA
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER THORN'S VISIT TO JAPAN,
JUNE 6-10

1. LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER THORN MADE UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO JAPAN, JUNE 6-10, AS PART OF ASIAN TRIP INCLUDING VISITS TO SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA. MAJOR PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO INTEREST JAPANESE INVESTORS IN LUXEMBOURG. THORN MET WITH JAPANESE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL LEADERS AND INSTALLED YOSHITADA UCHIYAMA, A MANAGING DIRECTOR OF QUASI-OFFICIAL INDUSTRIAL BANK OF JAPAN, AS HONORARY CONSUL GENERAL. UCHIYAMA, RATHER THAN LOCAL BELGIAN EMBASSY (WHICH HANDLES LUXEMBOURG'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN TOKYO), ARRANGED ECONOMIC APPOINTMENTS FOR THORN.

2. ACCORDING TO DUTCH EMBOFF, IN BRIEFING TO TOKYO EC REPRESENTATIVES, THORN SAID HE HAD STRESSED INVESTMENT ADVANTAGES IN LUXEMBOURG IN MEETING WITH HEAD OF JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND IN SPEECH TO INFLUENTIAL KEIDANREN (FEDERATION OF ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS). THORN ALSO MET WITH EMPEROR AND WITH POLITICAL LEADERS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, EXTERNAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER USHIBA,
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LDP PARTY SECGEN OHIRA AND MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY HEAD KOMOTO. THORN SAID, AS EC SPOKESMAN, HE HAD URGED CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND EC AND WARNED AGAINST BOTH PROTECTIONISM AND OVER AGGRESSIVE EXPORTING. FUKUDA HELD DINNER IN THORN'S HONOR. THORN ALSO SPENT ONE DAY VISITING KYOTO.

3. THORN TOLD EC REPS HE WAS PLEASED WITH VISIT, AND OFFERED FOLLOWING GENERAL IMPRESSIONS/OBSERVATIONS:
-- THORN FELT GOJ WAS EITHER UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO UNDERSTAND EC OR TO DEVISE EFFECTIVE PLAN FOR DEALING WITH PROBLEMS IN RELATIONSHIP. THORN RECOMMENDED THAT EC TAKE STRONGER POSITION WITH REGARD TO JAPAN-EC ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP AT UPCOMING BONN SUMMIT MEETING.

-- THORN WAS SURPRISED THAT JAPANESE INTEREST IN EUROPEAN POLITICS SEEMED TO BE CONFINED TO SUBJECT OF THREAT POSED BY EUROCOMMUNISM, TO WHICH THORN SAID HE HAD REPLIED THAT EUROCOMMUNISM WAS INVENTION OF WESTERN INTELLECTUAL PRESS.

-- THORN OBSERVED THAT DESPITE HAVING READ ABOUT U.S.- JAPAN RELATIONS, CLOSENESS OF TOKYO-WASHINGTON TIES WAS SOMETHING OF REVELATION TO HIM.

4. MOFA FIRST WESTERN EUROPE DIVISION OFFICER MATSUMOTO SAID MOFA VIEWED TRIP IN TERMS OF THORN'S DUAL ROLE AS LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER AND HIS INFLUENTIAL POSITION IN EC. MOFA CONSIDERED VISIT SUCCESSFUL IF ONLY IN GIVING THORN FIRST-HAND VIEW OF JAPAN. MANSFIELD

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